



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/784,332	02/23/2004	Donald Russell Ellis	NOR-056	8710
32836 7590 03/31/2008 GUERIN & RODRIGUEZ, LLP 5 MOUNT ROYAL AVENUE MOUNT ROYAL OFFICE PARK MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752				
EXAMINER				
TRAN, KHUONG N				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2619				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/31/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/784,332

**Applicant(s)**

ELLIS ET AL.

**Examiner**

KHUONG TRAN

**Art Unit**

2619

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/10/08.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 23, and 27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Objections*

2. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word 'clam' should be replaced with --claim--. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-9, 11-19, 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Teare et al. (U.S Patent No. 6,151,624).

Regarding claim 1, Teare et al teach a method for identifying resources associated with a communications network, the method comprising:

- defining a structured address format having a plurality of address segments (**FIG. 1A, 905, line 37**), each address segment being associated

generally with one or more properties of a managed resource of the communications network (**column 6, lines 61-63**); and

- assigning to the managed resource a structured address constructed according to the structured address format (**column 8, lines 37-40**), the structured address being a coded identity designation used to identify and distinguish the managed resource from other managed resources in the communications network (**column 7, lines 59-63**), each address segment of the assigned structured address having a value that conveys information about the one or more properties of the managed resource with which that address segment is associated (**column 8, lines 22-36**).

Regarding claim 2, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, further comprising assigning a name to the managed resource and associating the name with the structured address assigned to the managed resource (**column 7, lines 10-13**).

Regarding claim 3, Teare et al teach the method of claim 2, further comprising translating between the name and the structured address assigned to the managed resource using a domain name system service (**column 8, lines 65-67, column 9, lines 1-10**).

Regarding claim 4, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1 further comprising storing the structured address in an inventory system (**column 6, lines 23-25**) used by an operations system support (OSS) to support the communications network (**FIG. 1B, 20, column 9, lines 29-31**).

Regarding claim 5, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1 further comprising storing the structured address at a network element in the communications network (**column 9, lines 49-52**).

Regarding claim 6, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting the structured address assigned to the managed resource over the communications network in a packet (**FIG. 8, lines 30-37, 45-53**).

Regarding claim 7, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1 further comprising producing by a network element in the communications network a report containing the structured address assigned to the managed resource (**column 13, TABLE 3**).

Regarding claim 8, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1 wherein a value assigned to one of the address segments in the structured address operates to identify a zone in the communications network to which service traffic can be transported (**column 7, lines 8, 14-15, column 13, TABLE 3**).

Regarding claim 9, Teare et al the method of claim 1, wherein a value assigned to one of the address segments of the structured address operates to identify a type of service (**column 7, lines 60-63**).

Regarding claim 11, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the communications network includes one of an optical network (**column 29, line 39**), an Ethernet network (**FIG. 8, 818, column 29, lines 22-25**), and an Internet Protocol network (**FIG. 8, 826, 828**).

Regarding claim 12, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the structured address format includes a dotted decimal notation (**column 12, lines 56-61**; Teare et al disclose in order to view and modify profiles, the user's IP address is checked against the IP address stored in the Name File that contains the structured address. Since IP addresses are in decimal dotted notation, the structured address must include such notation in its content).

Regarding claim 13, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the managed resource is a data service (**FIG. 2, 10, column 9, lines 14-16**) and the structured address operates as a service identifier (**column 13, 36-40**).

Regarding claim 14, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the managed resource is a path through the communications network over which service traffic is transported and the structured address operates as a path identifier (**column 4, lines 47-57**).

Regarding claim 15, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the structured address is a private address (**column 12, lines 58-64**; Teare et al disclose a user is only allowed to create and modify the structured address in the Name File under their ownership).

Regarding claim 16, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the structured address format is a first structured address format, and further comprising translating the structured addresses defined according to the first structured address format into structured addresses defined according to a second structured address format (**column 4, lines 58-66**; Teare et al recite a feature of the embodiment enables the name association of a network resource

to be expressed in a second natural language other than the first natural language).

Regarding claim 17, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, further comprising querying a network element in the communications network (**FIG. 5, 508**) to take an inventory of managed resources based on structured addresses recorded by the network element (**column 21, lines 20-30**).

Regarding claim 18, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the communications network supports circuit-based communications (**column 29, lines 19-22**), packet-based communications (**column 29, lines 35-37**), or a combination thereof (**column 29, lines 1-5, 45-50**).

Regarding claim 19, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1, further comprising incorporating the structured address assigned to the managed resource in an inventory system of an operations support system (**column 8, lines 40-48**).

Regarding claim 23, Teare et al teach an inventory system for managing resources of a private communications network, the inventory system comprising:

- a structured address format (**FIG. 1A, 905**) having a plurality of address segments, each address segment being associated generally with one or more properties of a managed resource of the communications network (**column 6, lines 61-63**); and
- means for assigning to the managed resource a structured address constructed according to the structured address format (**column 8, lines 37-40**),

the structured address being a coded identity designation used to identify and distinguish the managed resource from other managed resources in the communications network (**column 7, lines 59-63**), each address segment of the assigned structured address having a value that conveys information about the one or more properties of the managed resource with which that address segment is associated (**column 8, lines 22-36**).

Regarding claim 24, Teare et al teach the inventory system of claim 23, further comprising means for translating structured addresses defined according to the structured address format into structured addresses defined according to a second structured address format (**column 4, lines 58-66**; Teare et al recite a feature of the embodiment enables the name association of a network resource to be expressed in a second natural language other than the first natural language).

Regarding claim 25, Teare et al teach the inventory system of claim 23, further comprising means for associating a name with the structured address assigned to the managed resource (**column 7, lines 10-13**).

Regarding claim 26, Teare et al teach the inventory system of claim 25, further comprising means for translating between the name and the structured address assigned to the managed resource (**column 8, lines 65-67, column 9, lines 1-10**).

Regarding claim 27, Teare et al teach an operations support system, comprising:



- means for defining a structured address format (**FIG. 1A, 905**) having a plurality of address segments, each address segment being associated generally with one or more properties of a managed resource of the communications network (**column 6, lines 61-63**); and

- means for assigning to the managed resource a structured address constructed according to the structured address format (**column 8, lines 37-40**), the structured address being a coded identity designation used to identify and distinguish the managed resource from other managed resources in the communications network (**column 7, lines 59-63**), each address segment of the assigned structured address having a value that conveys information about the one or more properties of the managed resource with which that address segment is associated (**column 8, lines 22-36**).

Regarding claim 28, Teare et al teach the operations support system of claim 27, further comprising means for translating structured addresses defined according to the structured address format into structured addresses defined according to a second structured address format (**column 4, lines 58-66**; Teare et al recite a feature of the embodiment enables the name association of a network resource to be expressed in a second natural language other than the first natural language).

Regarding claim 29, Teare et al the operations support system of claim 27, further comprising means for associating a name with the structured address assigned to the managed resource (**column 7, lines 10-13**).

Regarding claim 30, Teare et al the operations support system of claim 29, further comprising means for translating between the name and the structured address assigned to the managed resource (**column 8, lines 65-67, column 9, lines 1-10**).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teare et al (U.S Patent No. 6,151,624) in view of Fijolek et al (U.S Patent No. 7,068,597).

Regarding claim 10, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1. However, Teare et al fail to explicitly teach a value assigned to one of the address segments of the structured address operates to identify a transmission bit rate for service traffic over the communications network. Fijolek et al disclose a method and system for load balancing in a network system. According to the teaching, Fijolek et al list in **TABLE 1** several parameters that can be used to identify a transmission bit rate for service traffic over the communication network such as HTYPE 96 and HLEN 98. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Teare et al to include parameters denoting transmission bit rate in the

natural language name for resources as taught by Fijolek et al. One is motivated as such in order to define configuration parameters for the class of service as well as quality of service and to ensure the delivery of data to a specific destination and the level of protection from unauthorized monitoring or modification of data (**column 2, lines 59-67**).

7. Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teare et al (U.S Patent No. 6,151,624) in view of Chang et al (U.S Publication No. 2003/0074468).

Regarding claims 20 and 21, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1. However, Teare et al fail to explicitly teach the method further comprising:

- associating a first and second circuit identifiers with a path by which traffic of a service is transported over the communications network; and
- associating the structured address with the first and second circuit identifiers.

Chang et al teach a method of assigning paths between nodes of a data network. The method consists of associating a circuit identifier with a path by which traffic of a service is transported over the communication network (**paragraph 0009**) and associating the structured address with first circuit identifier (**paragraph 0010, lines 1-10**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Teare et al to associate a first and second circuit identifiers with a path by which traffic of a service is transported over the communications network and associate the structured address with the first and second circuit identifiers

as taught by Chang et al. One is motivated as such for maximizing the utilization and throughput of network resources (**paragraph 0003, lines 9-11**).

Regarding claim 22, Teare et al teach the method of claim 1. However, Teare et al fail to explicitly teach the method further comprising:

- associating a second circuit identifier with the path; and
- associating the structured address with the second circuit identifier.

Chang et al teach a method of assigning paths between nodes of a data network. The method consists of associating a circuit identifier with a path by which traffic of a service is transported over the communication network (**paragraph 0009**) and associating the structured address with that circuit identifier (**paragraph 0010, lines 1-10**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Teare et al to associate a second circuit identifier with a path and associate the structured address with the second circuit identifier as taught by Chang et al. One is motivated as such for maximizing the utilization and throughput of network resources (**paragraph 0003, lines 9-11**).

### ***Conclusion***

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed** to (571) 273-8300 or **mailed** to:

Commissioner for Patents,  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*Hand-Delivered responses should be brought to*  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khuong Tran, whose telephone number is (571) 270-3522. The examiner can normally be reached Mon-Fri from 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chirag G. Shah, can be reached at (571) 272-3144. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished application is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have question on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/K. T./

March 10, 2008

**/Chirag G Shah/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2619**